



**WORKFORCE
INVESTMENT BOARD**
MERCED COUNTY

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California Performance Review Commission
Office of the Governor
Constituent Affairs
State Capitol
Sacramento CA 95814

Commissioners:

This is to express our support for maintaining the positions of elected county superintendents of schools and county board of education. We believe that transferring the authority of the superintendent and the board to a regional office will reduce the effectiveness of the County Office of Education in provision of programs, services and support for education and youth in Merced County. We support local decision makers affecting the education of the children in their community.

Critical Merced County Office of Education (MCOE) functions include service to most needy children: students in court and community schools and students with disabilities. The Workforce Investment Board relies on the Regional Occupation Program and other targeted programs for at risk populations to complete the workforce preparation system in our county.

MCOE is a leader in the community partnership with education, preschool through university, as well as with local government, public service agencies, business, workforce development organizations, and parents to promote the education and welfare of youth in Merced County.

Fiscal and academic accountability are also critical functions of MCOE. District budget oversight is comprehensive. Teacher credentialing and training are provided. Administrator training and support are offered. Instructional resources are provided to districts. These are critical functions in maintaining quality educator training to our future workforce.

Eliminating local elected officials who provide direction and oversight of MCOE activities will reduce the effectiveness, responsiveness and accountability of those functions and will ultimately reduce the quality and quantity of education and youth services in the County. The long-term impact on the economic vitality of the county would be negatively impaired. We urge the Commission to reject the CPR recommendation to regionalize K-12 education.

Sincerely,

Andrea Baker, Director
Merced County Workforce Investment Department

"Merced County's Workforce Investment system will keep pace with the new growth, the emerging economy, and the ever changing needs of the employers by creating a better educated, highly skilled workforce, that's capable, and prepared, and thoroughly knowledgeable."